

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A license compliance verification system, comprising:
a license manager that internally monitors use of licensed property~~[[,]]~~ comprising a plurality of respective licensed products and intended to be used by licensed users, and gathers data on the usage of the respective licensed ~~property-products~~, including by reference to a plurality of respective licensors of the respective licensed products~~license-property~~; and
monitoring software that interfaces with the license manager and extracts from it licensor-specific data and authenticates the retrieved data such that the respective licensors are assured, based on a set of license-specific rules, that data gathered by the license manager has not been altered or improperly deleted prior to its being provided to the respective licensors.
2. (previously presented) The license compliance verification system of claim 1, in which the licensed property comprises computer software.
3. (currently amended) The license compliance verification system of claim 1, in which the monitoring software includes a facility that enables users to review data before it is sent to the respective licensors and prevents users from modifying such data.
4. (currently amended) The license compliance verification system of claim 1, in which the license manager includes a facility that accepts passwords and license certificates for authorizing usage of at least one of the respective products~~ones of the licensed property~~.
5. (previously presented) The license compliance verification system of claim 1, in which the gathered data comprises out-of- compliance data.
6. (previously presented) The license compliance verification system of claim 1, in which the gathered data comprises license certificate modification data.

7. (currently amended) The license compliance verification system of claim 1, in which the monitoring software includes a facility that enables the respective licensors to directly and remotely provide instructions to the monitoring software.

8. (currently amended) The license compliance verification system of claim 1, in which direct access to the monitoring software is granted to an agent operating on behalf of at least one of the a respective licensors ~~licensor~~ but which is active on a user's computer.

9. (currently amended) The license compliance verification system of claim 1, further including an operator control facility that enables controlling the monitoring software to carry out a data gathering task based on selection criteria and the selection criteria includes at least identification of the licensed products or the respective licensors.

10. (previously presented) The license compliance verification system of claim 1, in which the monitoring software is operable on a time scheduling basis.

11. (currently amended) The license compliance verification system of claim 1, further including a facility for creating a new symmetric encryption key for encrypting the data to be transferred to the respective licensors.

12. (currently amended) The license compliance verification system of claim 11, including a facility that encrypts the symmetric encryption key using a public key of at least one of the respective licensors ~~licensor~~.

13. (previously presented) The license compliance verification system of claim 11, including a facility that encrypts the symmetric encryption key using a public key of a user.

14. (currently amended) The license compliance verification system of claim 1, further including an authenticating facility which is operable as a part of the monitoring software and which authenticates data that is gathered for at least one of the a respective licensors ~~licensor~~, to prevent tampering with such data.

15. (previously presented) The license compliance verification system of claim 14, in which the authentication comprises a message digest and the message digest is a data digest selected from the group consisting of a hash value or an arithmetic total computed from encrypted data which is then encrypted using a private key specific to the monitoring software.

16. (previously presented) The license compliance verification system of claim 1, in which the licensed property is selected from a property group consisting of: licensed software, trade secrets, copyrighted music, copyrighted books, copyrighted photos, copyrighted movies, and copyrighted videos.

17. (currently amended) A method for verifying compliance with license conditions, the method comprising the steps of:

operating a license manager so as to internally monitor use of licensed property comprising a plurality of respective licensed products, intended to be used by licensed users, and gathering data on the usage of the respective licensed property products including by reference to respective licensors of the respective licensed property products; and

extracting, from data logged by the license manager, licensor-specific data; and authenticating at least portions of the retrieved data based on licensor-specific rules in preparation for forwarding the retrieved data to one or more of the respective licensors, so as to assure that data gathered by the license manager has not been altered or improperly deleted prior to its being provided to the respective licensors.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, in which licensed property comprises computer software.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, further including enabling users to review data before it is sent to the respective licensors and preventing users from improperly modifying such data.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, including operating the license manager to accept passwords and license certificates for authorizing usage of ~~respective ones~~ at least one of the respective licensed ~~property~~products.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, including retrieving from the license manager out-of-compliance data.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, in which the gathered data comprises license certificate modification data.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, including enabling the respective licensors to directly and remotely provide instructions which affect the retrieving of data from the license manager.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, further including operating an agent on behalf of at least one the respective licensors ~~licensor~~ which is active on a user's computer.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, further including controlling the retrieving of data from the license manager based on selection criteria that select information at least on a basis of identifying the respective licensors or the respective licensed products.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, further including retrieving data from the license manager by reference to time periods over which such data has been initially collected.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, further including creating a new symmetric encryption key for encrypting the data to be transferred to the respective licensors.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 27, including encrypting the symmetric encryption key using the public key of at least one the respective licensors ~~licensor~~.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, including encrypting the symmetric encryption key using the public key of a user.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, further including authenticating retrieved data.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, including employing an authentication process which comprises including a message digest, said message digest being a data digest selected from a group consisting of a hash value or an arithmetic total computed from the encrypted data which is encrypted using a private key.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, in which the licensed property is selected from a property group consisting of: licensed software, trade secrets, copyrighted music, copyrighted books, copyrighted photos, copyrighted movies and copyrighted videos.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, further including encrypting the symmetric encryption key which has been encrypted using the public key of at least one of the respective licensors~~licensor~~, with a user's public key and subsequently providing such twice encrypted information to a respective user.

34. (currently amended) The license compliance verification system of claim 12, including a facility that encrypts the symmetric encryption key, which has been encrypted using the public key of at least one of the respective licensors~~licensor~~, with a user's public key and subsequently providing such twice encrypted information to a respective user.

35. (currently amended) The license compliance verification system of claim 1, further including a central clearinghouse facility, the monitoring software accumulating licensor-specific data pertaining to a plurality of licensors and transmitting the same to the central clearinghouse facility, the clearinghouse facility consolidating, sorting and providing the licensor-specific data according to the respective licensors.

36. (previously presented) The license compliance verification system of claim 35, in which the monitoring software and the central clearinghouse facility interact with each other automatically.

37. (currently amended) The license compliance verification system of claim 35, in which the monitoring software and the central clearinghouse facility interact with each other in response to prompting by specific ones of the respective licensors.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, further including accumulating the licensor-specific data relative to a plurality of the respective licensors and transmitting the same to a central clearinghouse facility, the central clearinghouse facility consolidating, sorting and providing the licensor-specific data according to the respective licensors.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, including transmitting the licensor-specific data to the central clearinghouse facility automatically.

40. (currently amended) The method of claim 38, including transmitting the licensor-specific data to the central clearinghouse facility in response to prompting by specific ones of the respective licensors.